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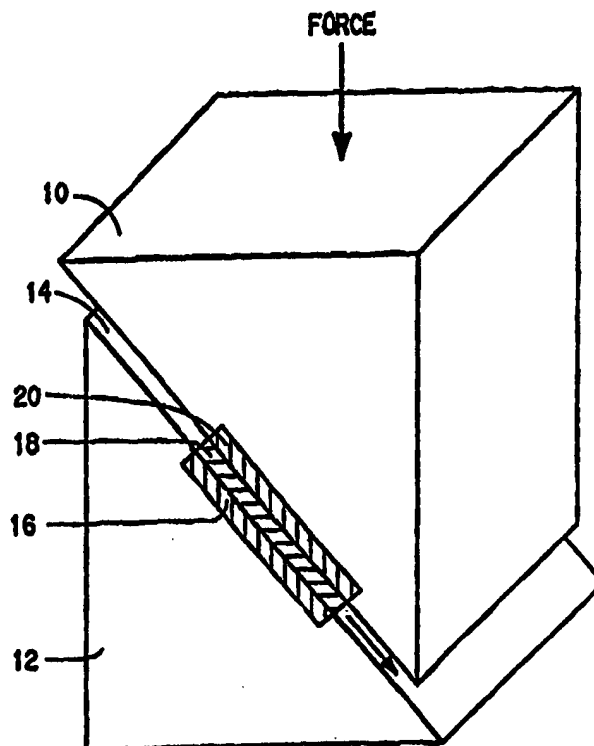
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(54) Title: ELIMINATING ADHESION DIFFERENCE DUE TO GLASS ORIENTATION IN LAMINATED SAFETY GLASS

(57) Abstract

A laminar structure comprised of at least two layers (16, 20) of glass and a sheet (18) of plasticized PVB containing an adhesion control additive is provided wherein the difference in adhesion between the PVB interlayer and the glass due to glass orientation is minimized by including a leveling agent in the bulk or on the surface of the sheet of plasticized PVB or by coating the leveling agent onto the glass prior to laminating.



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BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Laminated safety glass today are mainly made from float glass. For example, the automobile windshield is made from two pieces of float glass which have been bent either by heat sagging or by heating followed by form-pressing. The bent glass pieces are bonded together by a plasticized polyvinylbutyral (PVB) interlayer. In the manufacture of float glass, the glass is cast onto and transported on top of a bath of molten tin. While one of the surfaces is in contact with tin (the tin-side), the other is usually in contact with an inert atmosphere such as nitrogen (the air-side). Consequently, the chemistry of the two surfaces of the same glass sheet can be quite different. Sometimes, the difference in surface chemistry manifests itself in the adhesion between the glass and the PVB interlayer. One gets higher or lower adhesion depending on whether the "tin" side or the "air" side of the glass is in contact with the PVB interlayer, among other factors such as PVB moisture, inherent adhesivity of the interlayer, bulk glass chemistry. The difference in adhesion, often referred to as asymmetric adhesion, can be so much that a laminate is deemed usable as a windshield in one glass orientation, but not in another. Some laminators are frustrated with having to identify and keep track of the glass orientation, or having to install extra equipment to flip the glass to achieve a certain prescribed orientation.

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SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

In accordance with this invention there is provided a glass/adhesive sheet laminar structure comprising at least two layers of glass and a sheet of plasticized polyvinylbutyral (PVB), said polyvinylbutyral having blended therein an ionizable metal salt as an adhesion control additive to provide a preselected level of adhesion between said layers of glass and said sheet of polyvinylbutyral which is suitable for use as automobile windshields and side windows and body glass, and incorporating another ionizable metal salt which provides a cation different from that provided by the adhesion control additive such that the content of the cation which is provided by the leveling agent is between 0.03 and 1.35, and preferably 0.07 to 1.1 milliequivalents/kg (meq/kg) of sheeting. The second metal salt may be a salt of an alkaline earth metal such as magnesium or calcium or a transition metal such as zinc or copper, or Group IV metal such as tin. Surprisingly, this small amount of salt or leveling agent is adequate in reducing, and in some cases, essentially eliminating asymmetric adhesion without other deleterious effects on the overall performance on the laminate such as haze. Moreover, the adhesion level of the PVB interlayers may be controlled by conventional means by adjusting the amount of adhesion control additive.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING

In describing the invention, reference will be made to the accompanying drawing in which FIGURE 1 is a diagrammatic illustration of a jig used for determining the compressive shear strength of a laminate.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Plasticized PVB sheeting is prepared by processes well known in the art. Preparation of plasticized PVB is disclosed in Phillips, U.S. 4,276,351 which is hereby incorporated by reference. A wide variety of adhesion control additives can be used with polyvinylbutyral sheeting. In the instant invention a PVB sheet plasticized with a compatible quantity of glycol ester selected from the group consisting of triethyleneglycol di-n-heptanoate and tetraethylene glycol di-n-heptanoate, or with a compatible quantity of branched or unbranched glycol di-esters such as triethylene glycol di-2-ethylbutyrate and triethylene glycol di-2-ethylhexanoate, and contains as an adhesion control additive an alkali metal carboxylate such as potassium formate, acetate and the like. A process for preparing such sheeting is disclosed in Moynihan, U.S. 4,292,372 which is hereby incorporated by reference.

In the examples of this invention, 100 parts of dry PVB flake of nominally 23% by weight of non-butylated vinyl alcohol groups are mixed with 36-40 parts of tetraethylene glycol di-n-heptanoate plasticizer containing a light stabilizer (Tinuvin-P or other suitable compounds) and an antioxidant which are pre-mixed in the plasticizer continuously in a twin-screw extruder. The melt exiting the extruder is at 200-220°C. It is passed through a gear pump and a melt filter, and then through a slot die and forms a sheeting of 0.76mm nominal thickness. The adhesion control additive is added as an aqueous side-stream directly into the melt. The leveling agent, if it is water-soluble, is added either as a direct aqueous side-stream into the melt, or preferably as a mixed solution combined with the adhesion control additive. If the leveling agent is not readily soluble in water, it may be added as a solution in an organic solvent directly into the melt or as a solution in the plasticizer which is fed to the extruder..

As used herein, the term, inorganic acids, includes sulfuric acid, nitric acid, and hydrochloric acid. Monobasic organic acids include formic acid, acetic acid, as well as linear carboxylic acids having 1-12 carbon atoms and branched carboxylic acids having 3-12 carbon atoms. Polybasic organic acids refer to acids with two or more carboxylic acid groups, and they encompass oxalic acid, succinic acid, oxaloacetic acid, citric acid, and ethylenediamine tetraacetic acid.

In addition to an adhesion control additive and a leveling agent, usual adjuvants such as antioxidants, colorants and ultraviolet absorbers which do not adversely affect the functioning of the adhesion control additive may be included in the PVB composition. In addition, surface energy modifying agents consisting of silicones, hydrolyzed silanes, fluorine-containing surfactant, salts of a medium-to long-chain carboxylic acid or a combination thereof may be added for reducing air-related defect. Air-related defects in the laminate include air bubbles and worm-like defects which form as a result of having trapped air and air absorbed into the PVB interlayer during autoclaving.

Fabrication of the laminar structures is well known in the art. It is also known that in order to effectively remove most of the air from between the surfaces in the laminar structure, the surface of the PVB sheeting should be roughened. This can be effected mechanically by embossing or by melt fracture during extrusion of the PVB sheet. Retention of the surface roughness is essential to facilitate effective deaeration of the entrapped air during laminate preparation. (Surface roughness, Rz, is expressed in microns by a 10-point average roughness in accordance with ISO-R468 of the International Organization for Standardization. For sheeting having a thickness greater than about 0.030 inch (0.76 mm), 10-point average roughness, Rz, of up to 60 microns is sufficient to

prevent air entrapment. To prevent blocking a minimum roughness of about 20 microns is needed if the sheeting is to be wound up in a roll without interleaving or without anti-blocking agents. The surface roughness of thermoplastic resin sheeting and the methods of characterization and quantification of the surface roughness are described in ANSI /ASME B46.1(1995).

Adhesion Testing

Adhesion of the laminate, i.e. of the PVB interlayer to glass, is determined using the compressive shear strength test using jig 10, 12 shown in FIG. 1. Laminates for adhesion determination are prepared by first conditioning the polyvinylbutyral interlayer at $23^{\circ}\text{C} \pm 2^{\circ}\text{C}$ in an environment of $23 \pm 3\%$ relative humidity overnight before laminating. Referring to FIG. 1, interlayer 18 is then sandwiched between two pieces of annealed float glass 16 and 20 of dimension $12'' \times 12''$ (305 mm x 305 mm) and 2.3 mm nominal thickness which have been washed and rinsed in demineralized water. Two laminates are made from each PVB interlayer: one with the interlayer with both the tin-sides of the glass pieces (ATTA); one with the interlayer in contact with both the air-sides of the glass pieces (TAAT). The glass/PVB/glass assemblies are then heated in an oven set at $90\text{--}100^{\circ}\text{C}$ for 30 minutes. Thereafter, each is passed through a set of nip rolls so that the air in the void spaces between the glass and the interlayer may be squeezed out, and the edge of the assembly sealed. The assembly at this stage is called a pre-press. The pre-press is then placed in an air autoclave where the temperature is raised to 135°C and pressure to 200 psig (14.3 bar). These conditions are maintained for 20 minutes, after which, the air is cooled, while no more air is added to the autoclave. After 20 minutes of cooling when the air temperature in the autoclave is under 50°C , the excess air pressure is vented.

The compressive shear strength of the laminate prepared as prescribed above is determined using the method detailed here. Six $1'' \times 1''$ (25 mm x 25 mm) chips are sawed from the laminate. The chips are conditioned in a room controlled at $23^{\circ}\text{C} \pm 2^{\circ}\text{C}$ and $50\% \pm 1\%$ relative humidity for one hour prior to testing. The compressive shear strength of the chip is determined using jig 12 shown in FIG. 1. The chip, 16, 18, 20, is placed on the cut-out on the lower half of jig 12, and the upper half is then placed on top of the chip. A cross-head is lowered at the rate of 0.1 inch per minute (2.5 mm per minute) until it contacts the upper piece of the device. As the cross-head continues to travel downward, one piece of glass of the chip begins to slides relative to the other. The compressive shear strength of the chip is the shear stress required to cause adhesive failure. The precision of this test is such that one standard deviation is typically 6% of the average result of six chips. A glass/PVB/glass laminate tested in this way for adhesion which has

compressive shear strength of 1500 psi to about 2700 psi (1050 N/cm² to 1850 N/cm²) is considered most suitable for use in automobile windshields and side-glass.

Accelerated Haze Measurement

- 5 A laminate is made from each PVB interlayer tested. The TAAT orientation is used. The laminate is assembled and de-aired as discussed in the adhesion section, except that a hotter and longer autoclave cycle is used. The hold time is 90 minutes at 150°C and 225 psig (15.3 bar) pressure. Haze is measured following the procedure described in ASTM D-1003 using a Hazegard hazemeter
10 from Gardner. Haze levels higher than 0.4% are considered undesirable for use as windshields.

EXAMPLES

The following examples in which parts and percentages are by weight unless otherwise specified further illustrate this invention.

15 Comparative Examples C1 and C2.

- Plasticized polyvinylbutyral sheeting (commercially available from E.I. duPont de Nemours & Co. as Butacite®) in which the plasticizer was tetra-ethylene glycol di-heptanoate was used to prepare laminates in the method described above. Sheeting with two levels of adhesivity were used. Adhesion of
20 the laminates made in two glass orientations (TAAT and ATTA) was measured. Results are shown in Table 1.

Comparative Example C3

- 100 parts by weight polyvinyl butyral was admixed in an extruder with 38.5 parts plasticizer doped with antioxidants (octylphenol) and ultraviolet light
25 stabilizers (Tinuvin P). This composition is the same as that in Comparative Example 1. Potassium formate was added to the melt in the extruder as an adhesion control additive such that the potassium concentration in the sheeting was 250 parts per million by weight of the plasticized sheet. Adhesion results in both TAAT and ATTA orientations are shown in Table 1.

30 Example 1

The polyvinylbutyral interlayer in this example was similar to that in Example C3, except that a leveling agent, magnesium sulfate, was added such that the concentration of magnesium was 0.40 meq/kg. Adhesion and haze results are shown in Table 1.

35 Example 2

The polyvinylbutyral interlayer in this example is similar to that in Example 1, except that sheeting was made by feeding the adhesion control additive, potassium formate, and the leveling agent, magnesium sulfate, as a mixed solution.

The resulting potassium level in the sheeting was 381 ppm, and the magnesium level was 0.11 meq/kg. Adhesion and haze data are shown in Table 1.

Example 3

5 The polyvinyl butyral interlayer in this example was the similar to that used in Example 1, except that the potassium level of the adhesion control additive was 300 ppm, and magnesium neodecanoate was added as a leveling agent to the melt in the extruder as a solution in mineral spirits and plasticizer so that the magnesium concentration in the bulk of the PVB sheeting was 0.50 meq/kg. Adhesion and haze results are shown in Table 1.

10 Example 4

The polyvinylbutyral interlayer in this example was similar to that in Example 2, except that the potassium concentration from the adhesion control additive, potassium formate, was 405 ppm, and that a leveling agent disodium magnesium ethylenediamine tetracetate was added such that the concentration of 15 magnesium was 0.14 meq/kg in the sheeting. Laminates were prepared and adhesion was measured. Results are shown in Table 1.

Example 5

The polyvinylbutyral interlayer in this example is the same as that in Example 1 in that the potassium level from the potassium formate adhesion-control 20 additive was 350 ppm, but the leveling agent was magnesium from magnesium acetate. The magnesium level in the sheeting was 0.58 meq/kg. Adhesion and data are shown in Table 1.

Example 6

25 The polyvinyl butyral interlayer in this example was the similar to that used in Example 3, except that the potassium level from the adhesion control additive was 400 ppm, and 0.007 part of γ -glycidoxypropyltrimethoxy silane and 0.07 part of polyoxyethylene-modified silicone oil was also added as surface energy modifiers, and the concentration of magnesium in the bulk of the PVB sheeting was 1.0 meq/kg. Adhesion and haze results are shown in Table 1.

30 Example 7

The polyvinyl butyral interlayer in this example was the similar to that used in Example 1 except that the potassium level in the bulk of the sheeting due to the adhesion control additive was 300 ppm, and calcium acetate was added as the leveling agent so that the calcium concentration in the bulk of the PVB sheeting 35 was 1.0 meq/kg. Adhesion and haze results are shown in Table 1.

Example 8

The polyvinyl butyral interlayer in this example was the similar to that used in Example 7, except that zinc acetate was used as an leveling agent. It was added

so that the zinc concentration in the bulk of the PVB sheeting was 0.83 meq/kg. Adhesion and haze results are shown in Table 1.

Example 9

The polyvinylbutyral interlayer in this example (commercially available material under the tradename Butacite®) was the same as that used in Comparative Example C1, except that the interlayer was dip-coated in a bath containing a 0.012% aqueous solution of magnesium sulfate at 25 ft/minute (7.6 m/minute). The resulting sheeting was analyzed by ion chromatography and was found to contain 0.17 meq/kg of magnesium on a bulk basis. The resulting sheeting was dried and conditioned in an environment of 23±2% relative humidity prior to laminating. Adhesion results are shown in Table 1.

Example 10

The polyvinylbutyral interlayer in this example was the same as that in Comparative Example C1. However, the glass was dipped in a solution of magnesium sulfate in demineralized water and dried before laminating. The concentration of the magnesium ions in the solution was 10 mg/liter. Adhesion of the laminates in TAAT and ATTA orientations were measured. Data are shown in Table 1. It was surprising that such a low concentration of magnesium ions 10 parts per million in the solution was able to substantially lower the difference in adhesions between the two glass orientations.

Comparative Example C4

The polyvinyl butyral interlayer in this example was similar to that used in Example 1, except the potassium level from the adhesion control additive was 300 ppm and the magnesium level from the leveling agent is 1.5 meq/kg. Adhesion and haze results are shown in Table 1. The haze level was also high enough that such a laminate may not be preferred as automotive windshields.

Comparative Example C5

The polyvinyl butyral interlayer in this example was made in the same way as that in Comparative Example C3 except that magnesium in the form of magnesium formate was used as the sole adhesion control additive. The magnesium level was 4.2 meq/kg. No other leveling agent was used. Adhesion and haze results are in Table 1. Adhesion in the ATTA orientation was higher than that in the TAAT orientation. This shows that the use of magnesium alone does not have the desired leveling effect.

Comparative Example C6

The polyvinylbutyral interlayer in this example was the same as that in Example 2 except that no leveling agent was added. The level of potassium from the adhesion control additive, potassium formate, was 385 ppm. Adhesion in this

example is lower than that in Example 2 although the concentrations of adhesion control additive in both were nearly identical. This shows that the magnesium in the PVB interlayer in Example 2 did not act as an adhesion control additive, but rather as a agent to temper the effect due to glass orientation in the laminate.

Table 1

Example	Leveling Agent				Adhesion CSS (psi)			
	Cation		Anion	meq/kg	TAAT	ATA	%Difference	Haze
	Type							
C1	-		-		4199	2953	30	0.13
C2	-		-		3615	2005	45	0.17
C3	-		-		5072	2439	52	0.26
1	Mg		Sulfate	0.4	3135	2604	17	0.31
2	Mg		Sulfate	0.11	1966	1641	17	0.20
3	Mg		Neodecanoate	0.5	2355	2084	12	0.17
4	Mg		EDTA	0.28	2764	2421	12	0.16
5	Mg		Acetate	0.58	2132	1923	10	0.16
6	Mg		Neodecanoate	1	1887	1769	6	0.23
7	Ca		Acetate	1	2452	2460	0	0.18
8	Zn		Acetate	0.83	1426	1509	-6	0.12
9	Mg		Sulfate	0.17	3246	3270	-1	0.17
10	Mg		Sulfate	trace on glass	2302	2125	8	0.17
C4	Mg		Sulfate	1.5	2528	2316	8	0.57
C5	-		-		2798	3524	-26	0.19
C6	-		-		1544	-	-	-

CLAIMS

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A glass/adhesive sheet laminate comprising at least two layers of glass and a
5 sheet of plasticized polyvinylbutyral, said polyvinylbutyral having incorporated
therein as an adhesion control additive an alkali metal salt to provide a
preselected level of adhesion between said layers of glass and said sheet of
polyvinylbutyral wherein asymmetric adhesion is present between the layers of
glass and adjoining surfaces of the sheet of polyvinylbutyral, and as a leveling
10 agent a different metal salt in an amount to provide a concentration of cation
from the different metal salt in the PVB interlayer of 0.03-1.35 meq/kg, said
amount being sufficient to reduce asymmetric adhesion between the plasticized
interlayer and the adjoining surfaces of glass.
2. A laminar structure of Claim 1 wherein said leveling agent is an alkaline earth
15 metal salt of an inorganic acid or an organic acid.
3. A laminar structure of Claim 1 wherein said leveling agent is a transition metal
salt or a tin salt of an inorganic acid or an organic acid.
4. A laminar structure of Claim 1 wherein said adhesion control additive is a
potassium salt of an organic acid or potassium salts of organic acids.
- 20 5. A laminar structure in Claim 1 wherein the leveling agent is an alkaline earth
metal, transition metal, or tin salt of a monobasic organic acid.
6. A laminar structure in Claim 1 wherein the leveling agent is an alkaline earth
metal or transition metal salt of a polybasic organic acid.
7. A laminar structure in Claim 1 wherein the plasticizer is a glycol ester.
- 25 8. A plasticized polyvinylbutyral sheeting in a laminar structure in Claim 1 having
incorporated therein as plasticizer a glycol ester, as an adhesion control
additive an alkali or alkaline metal salt to provide a preselected level of
adhesion between said layers of glass and said sheet of polyvinylbutyral
wherein asymmetric adhesion is present between the layers of glass and
30 adjoining surfaces of the sheet of polyvinylbutyral, and as a leveling agent an
alkaline metal salt in an amount to provide a concentration of cation from the
different metal salt in the PVB interlayer of 0.03 to 1.35 meq/kg, said amount
being sufficient to reduce asymmetric adhesion between the plasticized
interlayer and the adjoining surfaces of glass.
- 35 9. The polyvinylbutyral interlayer of Claim 8 wherein said leveling agent is an
alkaline earth metal or transition salt of an inorganic acid or of an organic acid.
10. In a process for minimizing asymmetric adhesion between a polyvinylbutyral
interlayer and glass in a glass/adhesive sheet laminate comprised of at least two

- layers of glass and a sheet of plasticized polyvinylbutyral adhesive, the steps of preparing a bulk composition of plasticized polyvinylbutyral containing an alkali metal salt as an adhesion control additive which provides a preselected level of adhesion between said glass and said sheet, incorporating a second
- 5 metal salt different from said adhesion control additive as a leveling agent in an amount to provide a concentration of cation from the different metal salt in the polyvinylbutyral sheet of 0.03 to 1.35 meq/kg, forming a laminar structure by adhering said sheet to a glass plate, de-airing the structure and sealing said sheet and glass plate by applying heat and pressure thereto.
- 10 11. The process of Claim 10 wherein said leveling agent is an alkaline earth metal or a transition metal or a tin salt of an inorganic acid or of an organic acid.
12. The process of Claim 10 wherein said adhesion control additive is selected from the group consisting of potassium formate, potassium acetate, and other potassium salts.
- 15 13. In a process for minimizing asymmetric adhesion between a polyvinylbutyral interlayer and glass in a glass/adhesive sheet laminate comprised of at least two layers of glass and a sheet of plasticized polyvinylbutyral adhesive, the steps of preparing a bulk composition of plasticized polyvinylbutyral containing an alkali metal salt as an adhesion control additive which provides a preselected
- 20 level of adhesion between said glass and said sheet, and the glass having been coated with a leveling agent which is dissolved in a solution containing 2 parts per million by weight of metal ions, forming a laminar structure by adhering said sheet to a glass plate, de-airing the structure and sealing said sheet and glass plate by applying heat and pressure thereto.
- 25 14. The process of Claim 13 in which the cation of the leveling agent is magnesium, calcium, zinc, or tin, and anions are moieties of monobasic or polybasic organic acids.
15. The process of Claim 13 in which two or more leveling agents with different cations are used in combination.

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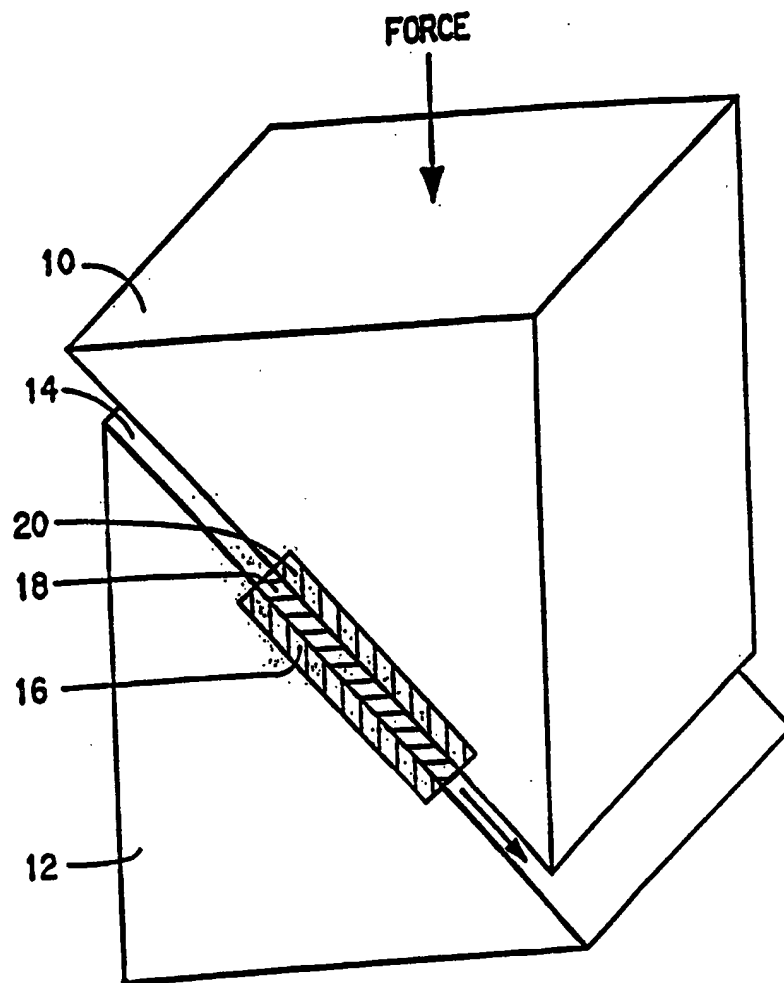


FIG. 1

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

In tional Application No

PCT/US 98/10580

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 6 B32B17/10 C08K5/098

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 6 B32B C08K

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	EP 0 161 583 A (HOECHST AG) 21 November 1985 see page 3, line 24 - page 4, paragraph 1 see page 6, paragraph 3; claims 1-6 ---	1-15
A	EP 0 373 139 A (MONSANTO CO) 13 June 1990 see page 5, paragraph 1; claims ---	1-15
A	WO 96 28504 A (DU PONT ;HUSSEY ANITA P & EF (US); KEANE JOHN J (US); FOSS RAY V () 19 September 1996 see claims -----	1-15



Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.



Patent family members are listed in annex.

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Date of the actual completion of the international search

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Information on patent family members

International Application No

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